Dear Howard, 8/8/73

From your generous mailing with no personal comments I take it not that you have nothing to say but that you have no time. It is to inquire if you will have any before classes begin again that I write. You may recall that I asked if you would have time to return and if you would, if you would be willing to read the draft on which I'm working as much as I can whenever I can.

To date Lil has read not a word. I have at least 30,000 at the beginning as I now write it from there and not less than a third that much as reminders and for incorporation.,She is quite depressed and this, in turn, involves other emotional factors I am not at all certain I understand. But I do know I can't pressure her and I will not, not even indirectly. I fear it would be counterproductive to make strong suggestions, so I don't. The last time we did discuss it, she said she'd rather have you read it first, which is not at all the same as having you read it, period.

This means that not a single page has been corrected or retyped. It will balloon into a major typing project if it is long delayed. And it will, inevitably, be a long book. I'm trying to put it together for cutting in hunks if necessary.

So, the inevitable has come to pass. Yesterday I got a letter from a friend who had talked to an agent. He suggests I send the agent what I have done.

Aside from whether or not all is comprehensible, my typing?

We have not discussed it, but I feel that Lil would not be reluctant to do the typing. She might, in fact, welcome it without realizing that it is welcome.

What I now have is not enough to show, although I will, in its present form, if necessary.

What we have done in the past I could not do, faced with Lil's attitude. I'd do a chapter, read and correct it, give it to her, she'd go over it, we'd then go over her suggestions, and then she'd type. This is how we have been able to work so fast. There is not only no point in doing this now, it is not the best way to spend my time. Unless and until she is read to type, I'd best be writing as fast as I can and have more on paper, more out of my mind, more to show. At the same time, I will not have to reread everything to be able to evaluate suggestions as I would with the lapse of time.

Part of the problem is Lil's realization she can't edit. She'll catch most of the incomprehensibles, grammatical errors and misspellings, but that is all. I think perhaps part of her attitude is controlled by this, her feeling that she can't do what I need. There are other considerations of which I am aware and possibly some of which I am not. One is her rather sterile, orthodox concept of expression and expressions. Another is a resentment when I ask her to explain a suggestion I can't understand. She gets resentful. So, by now, as she rationalizes, she has made a thing of it and I don't dare do anything, even address it.

IF we have no time-consuming developments now not visible I expect to get much written in a short time with no hearings to keep up with. I should double what I have in two weeks and I'd expect to do more.

With this explanation, what is the situation with you? I don't even know when classes start again.

The Hunt -Nixon and Nixon CIA connections get stronger, but I can't take time to explain what I'll be writing. I have some docs the committee didn't go into, on this and on ITT. The CIA did not break off when Hunt asked too much. Instead of the "young woman" in Paris, a "clerk-typist" upon whom he insisted "because of the loyalty factor" they actually did offer Washington secretarial services to him and the WH.

To simplify it, we face another Warren Report, but a much more credible one thanks to the extensive and open publicity with the material and the handling not understood and with the Uncle Sam figure of Senator Sam. Hasty best,